

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 051554

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051554

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO: PLF REQUEST MEETING WITH EMBASSY
OFFICER

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 613; (B) STATE 022359

1. EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW UP PLF REQUEST AND ARRANGE MEETING, PRESUMABLY THROUGH SUDANESE SECURITY BRANCH, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN PLF REPRESENTATIVES AND EMBOFF.

2. AT MEETING EMBOFF SHOULD TAKE FOLLOWING LINE:

(A) HE SHOULD REITERATE, IF QUESTION ARISES, THAT HE IS NOT EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS ANY CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 051554

(B) USG IS AWARE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY HIGH-RANKING PLF OFFICIAL THAT TWO HOSTAGES HELD BY PLF - CAMPBELL AND HARRELL - WILL SOON BE RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY, AND EMB-OFF SHOULD URGE PROMPT FOLLOW-UP ACTION.

(C) FACT THAT CAMPBELL AND HARRELL HAVE NOW BEEN HELD OVER 7 MONTHS UNDERLINES NEED FOR THEIR PROMPT RELEASE ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR WIVES, BOTH

OF WHOM ARE ERITREAN, ARE HIGHLY DISTRAUGHT OVER LONG PERIOD OF CAPTIVITY AND EFFECT IT MAY HAVE ON THE MEN.

(D) CONTINUED HOLDING OF MEN RATHER THAN CREATING SYMPATHY FOR PLF CAUSE HAS ENGENDERED SOME ANIMOSITY AMONG US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC.

(E) ON OTHER HAND, RELEASE, AS WAS THE CASE IN RELEASE BY ELF OF BOWIDOWICZ AND STRICKLAND, WOULD BE WELCOMED BY US MEDIA.

(F) IF, AS SEEMS UNLIKELY, PLF RAISES QUESTION OF RANSOM OR POLICY CONCESSIONS, POINT OUT RELEASE SHOULD BE EFFECTED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS RATHER THAN THROUGH SOME KIND OF BARGAINING FOR HUMAN LIVES.

(G) IF PLF RAISES ISSUE OF US MILITARY AID TO ETHIOPIA OR CONTINUED PRESENCE US PERSONNEL IN ASMARA, EMBOFF SHOULD SAY HE HAS NO AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT BUT THAT HE WILL CONVEY PLF COMMENTS ON SUBJECT TO WASHINGTON.

3. FOR ADDIS: AS IN MEETING WITH OSMAN SALEH SABBE IN DAMASCUS WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS PREFERABLE TO BRIEF EPMG AFTER MEETING HAS TAKEN PLACE. WE WILL SEND GUIDANCE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT HAPPENS AT MEETING, BUT ANTICIPATE THAT IT WILL BE CONFINED TO INFORMING EPMG THAT MEETING HAS TAKEN PLACE AND ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS ALONG LINES REF (B). INGERSOLL

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